

SENATE AGRICULTURE

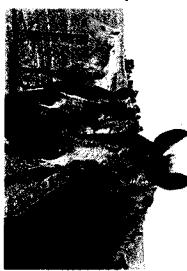
EXHIBIT NO. _____

DATE _____

BILL NO. _____

For the Sake of the Horse, Horse People, & Animal Agriculture

Common Sense & Compassion



How Big is the Problem?

- 10 million horses in the US
- Over 9 million in private sector
- At least 33,000 on BLM
- 31,000 in holding pens



- 1% - 2% of private horses used to be processed
- Most un-useable horses are worthless
- Zero market for brood mares, weanlings, yearlings

US Plants Closed Sept 2007...

Before 2007

- Past 15 years - 1 to 2 % sent for processing in U.S. - +/- 100,000
- 10 - 20,000 sent to Canada
- 6,000 - 12,000 to Mexico

In 2008

- As of August 14
- 32,443 head to Mexico,
- 2007 by this date, 22, 632*

*USDA Market News US to Mexico Weekly Livestock Export Summary

- What happens to...
 - Markets
 - Transportation
 - Value
 - Animal Welfare
 - Disposal
 - Private Property Rights
 - Costs to States & Taxpayers
 - Waste of it All

What happens when an entire sector of animal agriculture is rendered worthless...

So, what can you do with
an un-useable horse?



- Sell to another owner
- Sell at auction
- Give away
- Euthanize
- Send to processing facility
- Neglected/Abandoned

Equine Recovery Facilities

Fall 2007/ Early 2008



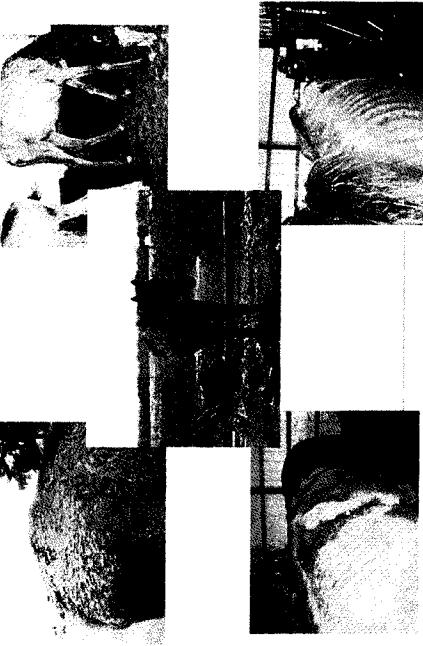
- 30 or more rescues
across the country
- Most echoed the same
concerns

Recovery Comments from Early 2008

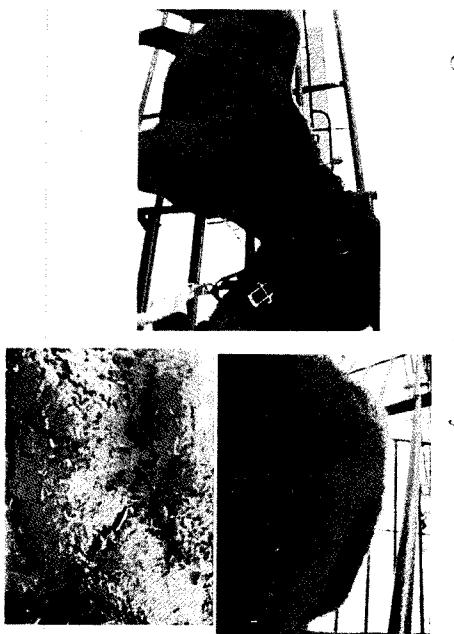
- Georgia: the number of unwanted horses has gone through the roof.
- Indiana: contacts to facility up four fold
- Maryland: 3 – 5 calls a day, have to turn many away.
- Washington: rescue full. Seeing more sickly horses
- Texas: rescues are expected to clean up the mess created by the short sightedness of some groups



Neglected Horses



Neglected Horses taken in by USU



Recovery comments cont?

- Not only receiving local calls but now from other states
- Better quality, ie registered horses
- Not getting the number of horses adopted out as in the past
- Horses in poorer condition
- \$500 for 1st three months then \$250 after that.
- \$200 a month per head not including farrier
- Many have not been handled as should have been
- More calls on neglect or abuse cases
- For first time having to place horses with other rescues, financially strapped.



Horse Auction Companies

- Fall 07/Early 08
- 15 -20 auction companies across the country
- Worried about the future
- Horses left at the auction facility
- Low end horses have no market
- High quality horses still have market



August 08 Recovery Comments



- Huge increase in number of people not wanting to keep their horses
- Some rescues have gotten hate mail if they express their opinion on horse processing
- Donation upon taking a horse in 3 – 4 calls a day now compared to 3 – 4 a month previously

Auction Company Cont.

The horse that yesterday was a \$5000 horse today is a \$2000 horse
Seeing more business coming from out of country, ie Canadians or Europeans buying horses because of weak dollar
One owner indicated that in 2007 20% of his business was out of country, in 2008 45% out of country.

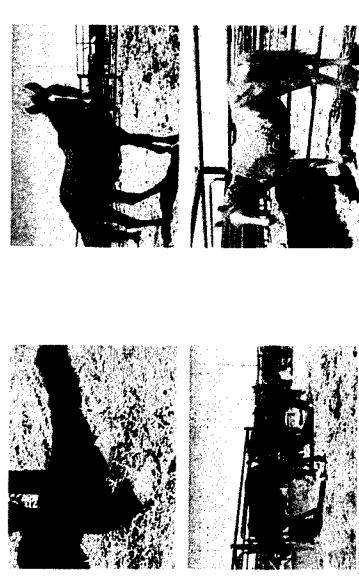
The horse market is in crisis
Owners can no longer count on getting any money back when they want to sell
Concern over being able to continue with horse auctions

Auction Companies August 08

Have begun screening horses coming in.
Low end and mid range horses market has bottomed out.
Horses bring half or less than what they would have brought two years ago.
Broodmares, weanling and yearling no market
Horses now hauled much longer distances if going for processing

Consignments down 30%
Solid broke geldings sell
Average horse owner with horse of average pedigree has no market
Do not see it getting better in the near future
More than one company has canceled fall sales
Family run businesses established for decades may shut down

Abandoned Horses



What has contributed to the number of neglected or "unwanted" horses?

High hay costs
High feed costs
Bad economy
Lost jobs
High gas and food costs
Housing market
Closing of the processing facilities

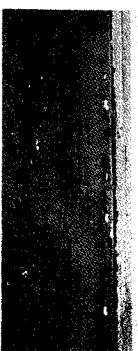

BLM Information end of 08

- 2007 - \$22 million for holding costs nationally
- 2008 – 70% of BLM budget will go towards maintaining the horses
- 2009 - predict that 80% of total budget will be needed to cover these costs
- 2012 – to continue its current removal and holding practices, the BLM will need \$77 million



BLM Long Term Holding

- Long term facilities locations
 - * Pasture setting
 - Horses may remain for years
- Implications
 - * Land use
 - Cost



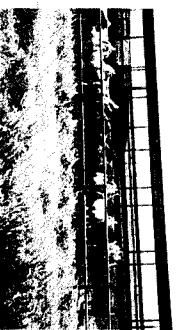
Costs per horse

- At BLM holding facilities- \$6 per day per horse
- At prison facilities- \$3 per day per head
- Long term facilities- \$1.30 per day per head



BLM Holding Sites

- Short term facilities
 - Hold horses for adoption
 - Up to about 6 months but if not adopted will hold them longer



Adoption Program

From October 1, 07 thru July 30, 08 Nationally

adopted 2771. TARGET number is 5000

Seeing more returns than in the past
Utah-

- ↳ Past years 12 – 15 returns per year
- ↳ 2007 took back 47 animals
- ↳ 2008 may reach 50 returns



Adoption Program Cont.

Adoptions have bottomed out



June 08- Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado adopted out less than 50 head, typically would adopt 150 head.

July 08- 12 horses adopted out of 55, typically 50 – 60% would have been adopted.

August 08- 10 out of 55 adopted

BLM Cont.

Utah BLM has canceled gathers for rest of year.
BLM has the authority to euthanize the horses in holding facilities



BLM Options

Selling without options

Mustang Heritage

Foundation picture

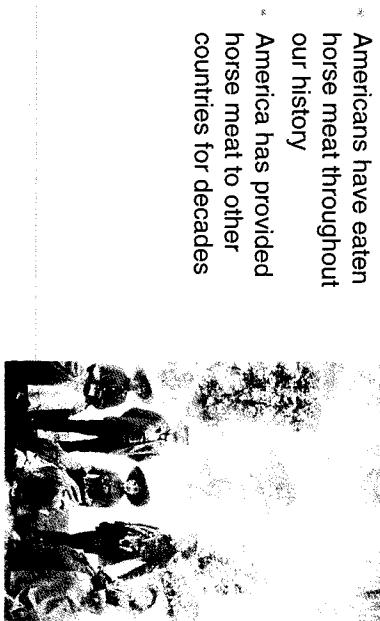
↳ Mustang Challenge

Fertility vaccines

Euthanizing



History of Horse Processing



- » Americans have eaten horse meat throughout our history
- » America has provided horse meat to other countries for decades

Import Market



There is a market for horsemeat in the US

Since plant closures have had to import horsemeat back in to the US

Primarily for zoo meat, but also ethnic markets desiring horsemeat

U.S. Imports of Horse, Ass, and Mule Meat		
	Metric Tons	Dollars
2003	207	\$12,843
2004	0	\$0.00
2005	0	\$0.00
2006	14	\$17,174
2007	321.5	\$501,824
2008	515.7	\$786,488

*Jan-Sept 2008

Export Market

Majority of world cultures appreciate horsemeat for nutrition, taste, and value

- ↳ Most of Europe, Asia, and French Canada
- ↳ China imports 204,000 metric tons
- ↳ Mexico 100,000 metric tons
- ↳ Brazil 100,000 metric tons

Frugal Icelanders Prepare For The Holidays
Morning Edition, December 11, 2008. Iceland has been hit by the global financial crisis in a big way. With unemployment surging and the currency collapsing, less expensive traditional staples are coming back into fashion. Frugal Icelanders are avoiding imported beers. They are also buying horse meat, which is half the price of beef.

The Nature of Horses



- » Horses are livestock
- » Private property
- » Uses
- » Horses as pets
- » Alternatives needed

Doesn't it make sense to use this resource?

10 million people die of hunger & hunger related diseases every year
854 million go to bed hungry every night—which is more than the combined populations of the United States, Canada, and the European Union
24,000 die every day—one every 3.5 seconds



Rather than spend taxpayer dollars on horses standing in holding pens that will never be adopted, and cannot be turned back out on an already over-populated, over-grazed range, why not send them to market, feed the hungry, and use the revenue to improve the conditions for other horses and people?

The ethics of animal agriculture...

How we treat our animals...

- ✓ Compassion
- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Responsibility
- ✓ Morals



For the good of the horses, and the horse people of this nation...

